



# State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR

**Climate Initiatives Task Force**  
**Monday, November 9, 2020**  
**State Capitol – Committee Room 1**  
**900 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70802**  
**9:30AM**

*The following constitute minutes of the Climate Initiatives Task Force Meeting and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings. Audio and video recordings of the meetings are available for viewing and kept at the Office of the Governor-Coastal Activities Office in Baton Rouge, LA.*

## **I. Call to Order**

## **II. Roll Call**

Chairman Kline, Present, Executive Assistant, Coastal Activities  
Chuck Brown, Present, DEQ  
Mark Moses, Present, DOA FP & C  
Bren Haase, Present, CPRA  
Thomas Harris, Present, DNR  
Don Pierson, Present, LED  
Mike Strain, Present, LDAF  
Shawn Wilson, Present, DOTD  
Timothy Hardy, Present, Designee of the President of the Senate  
Selby Bush, Present, Designee of the Speaker of the House  
Bill Robertson, Present, Designee of Public Service Commissioner  
Tyler Gray, Present, LA Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association  
Gregory Bowser, Present, LA Chemical Association  
Jonathan Bourg, Present, Entergy  
Virginia Burkett, Present, USGS  
Karen Gautreaux, Present, LA Nature Conservancy  
Flozell Daniels, Present, Foundation for Louisiana  
Terrance Chambers, Present, University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Colette Pichon Battle, Present, Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy  
Chief Shirell Parfait-DarDar, Present, Tribal Chief of the Grand Caillou/Dulac Band of the Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw  
Robert Verchick, Present, Loyola University New Orleans  
Camille Manning-Broome, Present, Center for Planning Excellence



# State of Louisiana

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## **III. Opening Remarks – Governor John Bel Edwards (Video 00:01:50)**

- Gov. Edwards presented his vision at today's inaugural meeting of the Climate Initiatives Task Force. Offshore wind energy will be one of many strategies pursued by the task force to curb the growth of greenhouse gas emissions that have reduced air quality, contributed to coastal erosion through sea rise, and increased the severity of weather events.

## **IV. Task Force Charge – Chairman Chip Kline, Governor's Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities (Video 00:11:07)**

- The Chairman discussed how with the task force, along with its advisory groups and subcommittees, can develop strategies that will meet emissions targets and that the process we take is how we are going to arrive with solutions we can actually implement. It's about creating a path that the people in this state are ready to take, a path that is real and a path that is tangible, that leads us away from disaster and towards prosperity.

## **V. Climate Science and Impacts Overview – Dr. Virginia Burkett, USGS (Video 00:16:49)**

- Outline of basic concepts, observed and projected changes, impacts on central Gulf coast region, adaptation & mitigation options and scenarios of future changes with and without mitigation.
- Discussed difference between weather & climate, greenhouse effects, indicators of a warming world and significant changes through time.
- Also discussed ice core records, human activities as drivers of recent global temperature rise and how they vary among regions.
- Briefed board on sea level rise, CO2 sources & sinks, summary of observed U.S. changes and findings regarding North Atlantic hurricanes.
- Costs of disaster events, projected global temperatures, changes in soil moisture, economic, health and flood risks, transformation of ecosystems and coastal impacts also discussed.
- Explained how adaptation, and mitigation efforts can reduce risks.

## **VI. Developing Solutions Utilizing Structured Decision Making – Dr. Alyssa Dausman, The Water Institute of the Gulf (Video 01:05:50)**



# State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
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- Briefed Board on working through decision-making in a collaborative process with stakeholders, the institutes role, framing the decision, objectives along with desired outcomes and taskforce introductions.
- Also discussed scientific, engineering, and management communities and tools to help structure a decision.

## **Motion to move agenda item number VII to item number VIII.**

Motion by Ms. Gautreaux

Seconded by Mr. Harris

Unanimously Approved

## **VII. Task Force Administration and Next Steps: Structure, Assignments, and Work Plan – *Harry Vorhoff, Governor’s Office of Coastal Activities (Video 01:23:16)***

- Briefed Board on emission reduction goals, the vision, task force values, structure, agencies involved and sub-committees.
- Also discussed the committees charge, next steps, advisory groups charge and task force deliverables.
- Review of timeline to interim report.

## **VIII. Member Introduction and Statement of Objectives – *Task Force* membership (Video 01:43:20)**

- Each member of the Climate Initiatives Task Force introduced themselves, who they are affiliated with, bio, and statement of their objectives.

## **IX. Public Comment**

## **X. Adjourn**

Motion by Ms. Gautreaux

Second by Mr. Wilson

Unanimously Approved